This release has ceased

# Payroll Jobs

Weekly payroll job indexes, sourced from Single Touch Payroll (STP) data

**Reference period** Week ending 15 March 2025

**Released** 24/07/2025

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## Key statistics

In the week ending 15 March 2025, payroll jobs:

- increased by 0.7% in the month from 15 February 2025
- increased by 0.2% in the year from 16 March 2024

Month change periods represent the index change between the reference week and four weeks prior, whereas annual change represents the index change from 52 weeks prior.

Estimates of change throughout this release are calculated using un-rounded index values. They may differ from, though are more accurate than, change calculated from rounded values.

### Final Payroll Jobs release

This is the final release of Payroll Jobs. The Payroll Jobs indexes will be replaced with a new monthly Employee Jobs measure, also derived from Single Touch Payroll data, that will be available in the Monthly Employee Earnings Indicator (https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/monthly-employee-earnings-indicator/mar-2025) from February 2026.

### Update to employer characteristics

The source of employer characteristics - industry and employment size - has been updated in this release, significantly reducing the number of payroll jobs with 'unknown' employer characteristics and improving the quality of indexes that include these characteristics. For more information, see the Update of employer characteristics (/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-15-march-2025#update-of-employer-characteristics) section of the Methodology.

## Change periods

### Change periods

| Period reference | Reference week ending | Month change from | Annual change from |
|---|---|---|---|
| **March 2025** | 15 March 2025 | 15 February 2025 | 16 March 2024 |
| **February 2025** | 15 February 2025 | 18 January 2025 | 17 February 2024 |
| **January 2025** | 18 January 2025 | 21 December 2024 | 20 January 2024 |

## Interpreting drivers of index change

The distribution of payroll jobs across states and territories, industries, employment size groups and age groups should be considered when interpreting drivers of index change. For example, index movements in states and territories with a larger share of payroll jobs like New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, will have a greater influence. Distributions of jobholder and employer characteristics are included in the Data downloads (/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-15-march-2025#data-downloads) to aid in interpretability of payroll job indexes.

## Impact of employer and jobholder characteristics updates

Employer and jobholder characteristics, including industry, employment size, state/territory of residential address and age, are periodically updated. These updates are referred to as 'transition points.' Users should always exercise caution when comparing index levels across transition points. The most recent transition point was for week ending 28 December 2024 related to updating of employer characteristics. For further details, refer to Updating characteristics variables in the How data is transformed (/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-15-march-2025#how-data-is-transformed) section in the Methodology.

# National

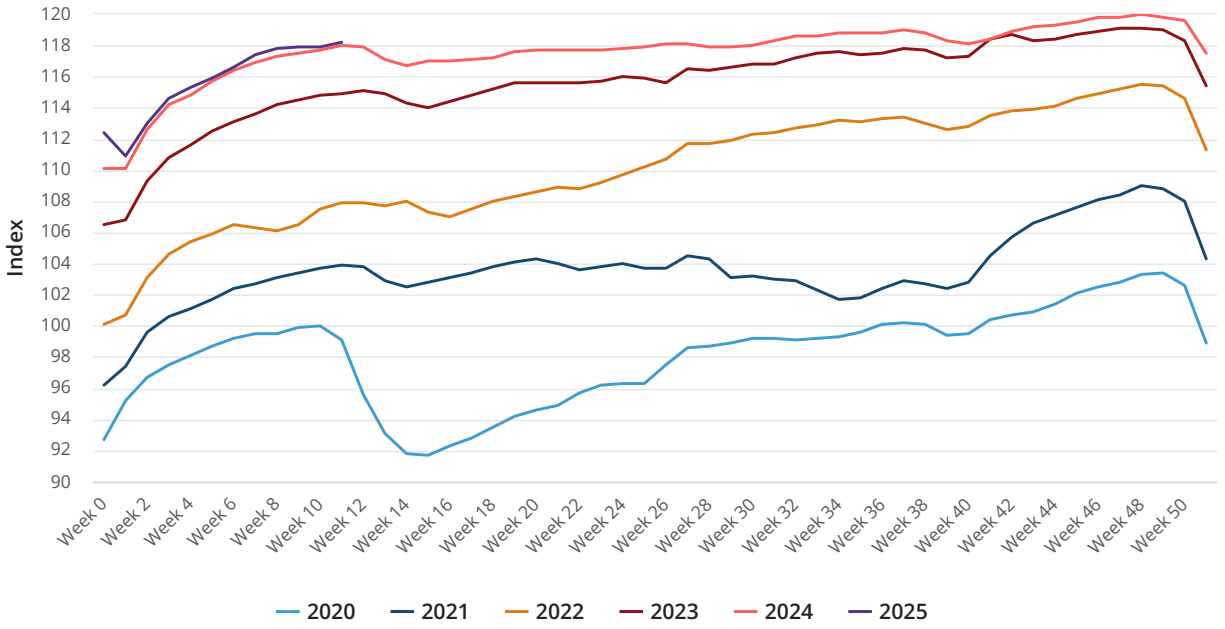
### Percentage change in payroll jobs (a)

| | Jan-25 | Feb-25 | Mar-25 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Month change (%)** | -2.5 | 2.5 | 0.7 |
| **Year change (%)** | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.2 |

a. Refer to Change periods in the Key statistics (/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-15-march-2025#key-statistics) section for detailed reference dates.

The 0.7% positive monthly movement to mid-March 2025 was influenced by a typical seasonal increase in payroll jobs in the Education and training industry at this time of year.

### Payroll jobs, comparison across years (a)(b)(c)




a. Indexed to the week ending 14 March 2020 (week 10 in 2020).

b. Week 0 represents the weeks ending 4 January 2020, 2 January 2021, 1 January 2022, 31 December 2022, 30 December 2023, and 28 December 2024. Week 50 represents the weeks ending 19 December 2020, 18 December 2021, 17 December 2022, 16 December 2023, and 14 December 2024.

c. There is greater variation in business payroll reporting around the change in financial years. Refer to End of financial year variability in the Factors affecting interpretation (/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-15-march-2025#factors-affecting-interpretation) section of the Methodology for more information.

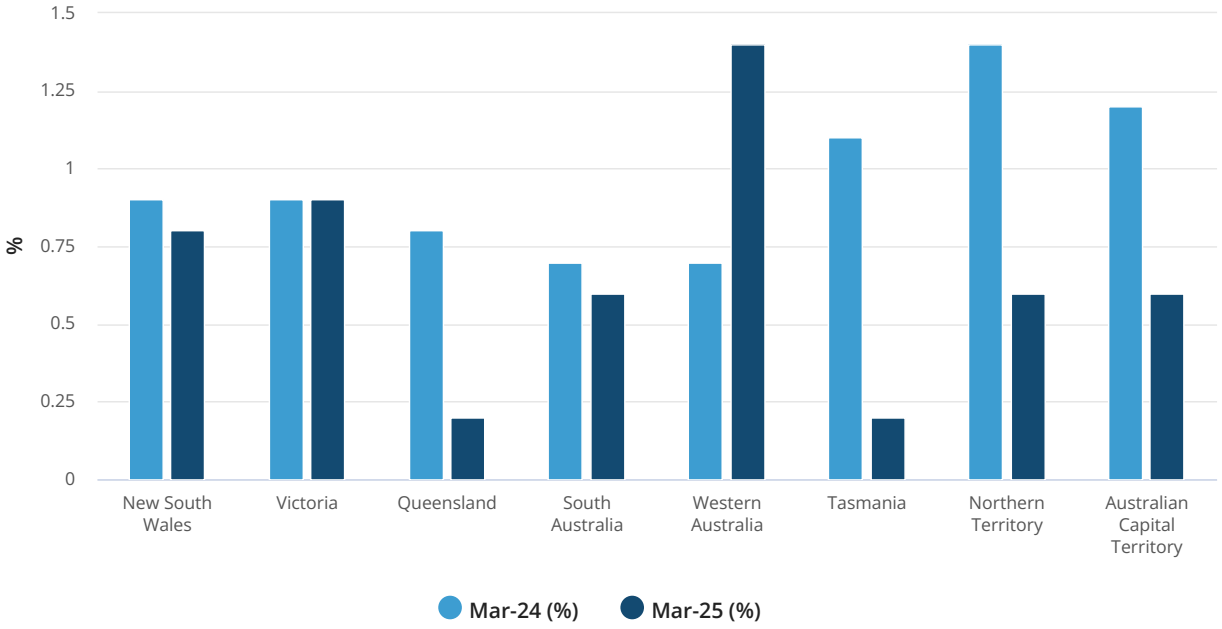
## State and territory

All geographical areas in this release represent the residential address of the jobholder.

In the month to 15 March 2025, payroll jobs change varied across states and territories.

- All states and territories recorded increases.
- The largest increase (1.4%) was in Western Australia influenced by the state election.
- Queensland and Tasmania both recorded the smallest increase (0.2%).

### Month change in payroll jobs, by state and territory (a)




a. Refer to Change periods in the Key statistics (/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-15-march-2025#key-statistics) section for detailed reference dates.

## Month change

### Month change in payroll jobs, by state and territory (a)

| | Jan-25 (%) | Feb-25 (%) | Mar-25 (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| New South Wales | -2.9 | 2.4 | 0.8 |
| Victoria | -3.0 | 2.9 | 0.9 |
| Queensland | -1.8 | 2.0 | 0.2 |
| South Australia | -1.7 | 2.8 | 0.6 |
| Western Australia | -1.9 | 2.0 | 1.4 |
| Tasmania | -2.5 | 2.0 | 0.2 |
| Northern Territory | -1.7 | 3.3 | 0.6 |
| Australian Capital Territory | -2.5 | 2.9 | 0.6 |
| Australia | -2.5 | 2.5 | 0.7 |

a. For reference dates refer to Change periods in the Key statistics (/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-15-march-2025#key-statistics) section.

## Annual change

### Annual change in payroll jobs, by state and territory (a)

| | Jan-25 (%) | Feb-25 (%) | Mar-25 (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| New South Wales | 0.0 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| Victoria | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Queensland | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.2 |
| South Australia | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.9 |
| Western Australia | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.4 |
| Tasmania | 0.0 | 0.4 | -0.4 |
| Northern Territory | 1.9 | 2.3 | 1.5 |
| Australian Capital Territory | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.2 |
| Australia | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.2 |

a. For reference dates refer to Change periods in the Key statistics (/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-15-march-2025#key-statistics) section.

## Age group

In the month to 15 March 2025, the largest change in payroll jobs was worked by persons aged 70 and over, up 2.6%.

### Month change

#### Month change in payroll jobs, by age group (a)(b)

| | Jan-25 (%) | Feb-25 (%) | Mar-25 (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15-19 | -7.5 | 4.4 | -0.2 |
| 20-29 | -3.4 | 2.5 | 1.3 |
| 30-39 | -1.8 | 2.0 | 0.6 |
| 40-49 | -1.6 | 2.3 | 0.6 |
| 50-59 | -1.5 | 2.0 | 0.5 |
| 60-69 | -2.2 | 2.7 | 1.0 |
| 70 and over | -5.4 | 6.8 | 2.6 |
| All persons | -2.5 | 2.5 | 0.7 |

a. For reference dates refer to Change periods in the Key statistics (/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-15-march-2025#key-statistics) section.

b. The small cohort size of the 15-19 and 70 years and over age groups results in a higher degree of volatility.

### Annual change

#### Annual change in payroll jobs, by age group (a)(b)

| | Jan-25 (%) | Feb-25 (%) | Mar-25 (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15-19 | -5.1 | -3.7 | -4.2 |
| 20-29 | -0.9 | -0.7 | -0.8 |
| 30-39 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.5 |
| 40-49 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.7 |
| 50-59 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| 60-69 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.0 |
| 70 and over | 4.4 | 5.0 | 4.9 |
| All persons | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.2 |

a. For reference dates refer to Change periods in the Key statistics (/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-15-march-2025#key-statistics) section.

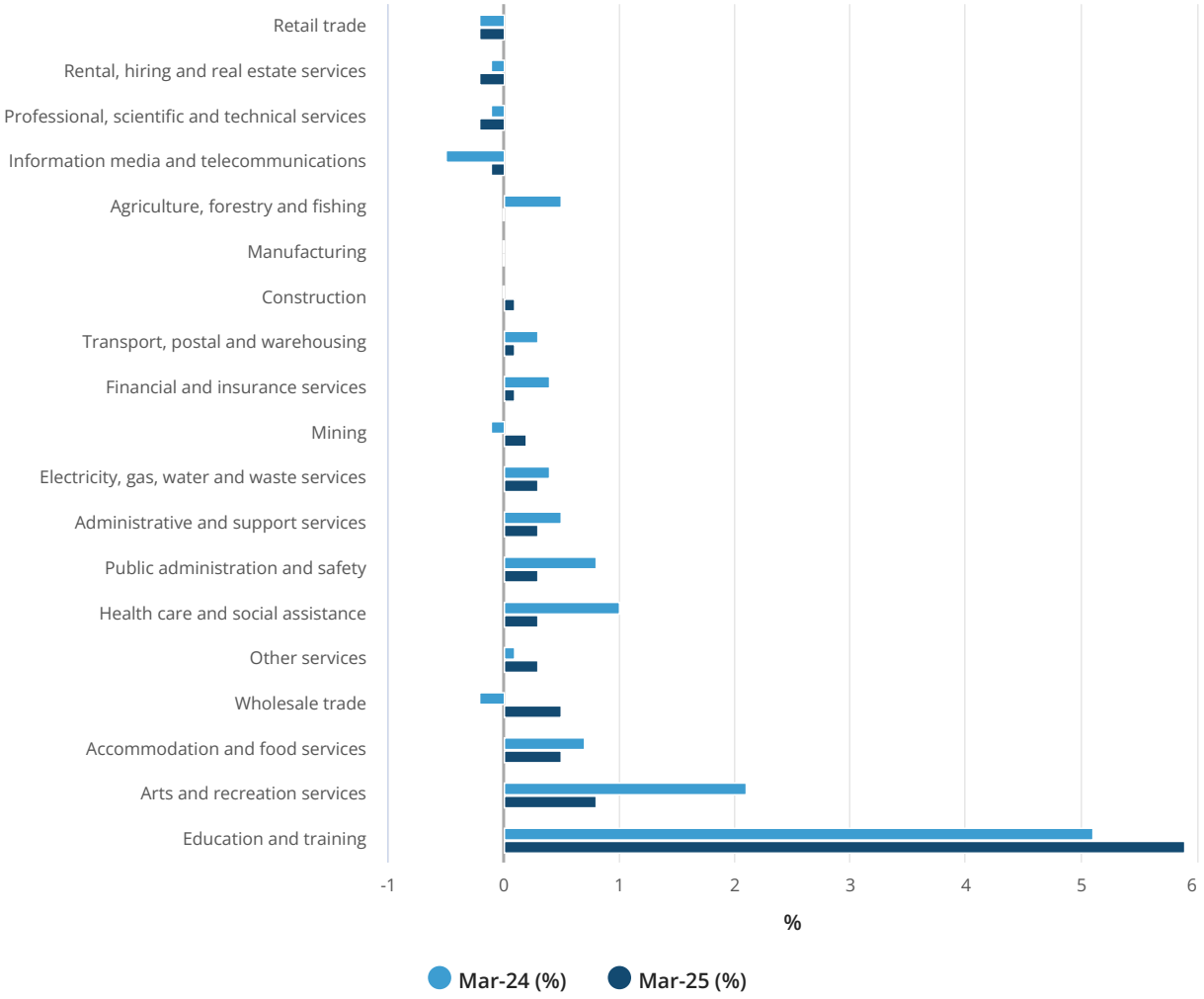
b. The small cohort size of the 15-19 and 70 years and over age groups results in a higher degree of volatility.

## Industry

In the month to 15 March 2025, across the 19 industries, payroll jobs increased in 13 industries, was flat in 2 and decreased in 4.

- The largest increase was in Education and training (5.9%).
- The largest decrease was in 3 industries, Retail trade, Rental hiring and real estate services, and Professional, scientific and technical services (-0.2%).

### Month change in payroll jobs, by industry (a)(b)




a. Industries ranked by percentage change in the latest month.

b. Refer to Change periods in the Key statistics (/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-15-march-2025#key-statistics) section for detailed reference dates.

## Month change

### Month change in payroll jobs, by industry (a)(b)(c)(d)

| | Jan-25 (%) | Feb-25 (%) | Mar-25 (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing | -1.0 | -0.1 | 0.0 |
| Mining | 0.0 | -0.6 | 0.2 |
| Manufacturing | 1.4 | 1.6 | 0.0 |
| Electricity, gas, water and waste services | 0.4 | 0.9 | 0.3 |
| Construction | 3.3 | 2.5 | 0.1 |
| Wholesale trade | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.5 |
| Retail trade | -2.4 | 0.3 | -0.2 |
| Accommodation and food services | 0.8 | 1.6 | 0.5 |
| Transport, postal and warehousing | -0.8 | 1.7 | 0.1 |
| Information media and telecommunications | 1.6 | 1.6 | -0.1 |
| Financial and insurance services | -0.3 | 0.8 | 0.1 |
| Rental, hiring and real estate services | -1.0 | 2.3 | -0.2 |
| Professional, scientific and technical services | 1.1 | 1.3 | -0.2 |
| Administrative and support services | -0.3 | 2.8 | 0.3 |
| Public administration and safety | 0.4 | 2.0 | 0.3 |
| Education and training | -8.9 | 11.7 | 5.9 |
| Health care and social assistance | 0.7 | 1.8 | 0.3 |
| Arts and recreation services | -0.1 | 5.2 | 0.8 |
| Other services | 0.3 | 2.6 | 0.3 |
| All industries | -2.5 | 2.5 | 0.7 |

a. Some industries experience pronounced seasonality in payroll jobs, which can affect the interpretation of change between months and industries. For more information, refer to Seasonality in the Factors affecting interpretation (/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-15-march-2025#factors-affecting-interpretation) section of the Methodology.

b. Jobs with 'unknown' industry are only included in the calculation of all industry indexes. For more information, refer to Inclusion of unknown characteristics in How data is transformed (/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-15-march-2025#how-data-is-transformed) section of the Methodology.

c. For reference dates refer to Change periods in the Key statistics (/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-15-march-2025#key-statistics) section.

d. The January monthly change should be used with caution given it crosses the 'transition point' of the update to employer characteristics. For more information, see the Update of employer characteristics (/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-15-march-2025#update-of-employer-characteristics) section of the Methodology.

## Annual change

### Annual change in payroll jobs, by industry (a)(b)(c)(d)

| | Jan-25 (%) | Feb-25 (%) | Mar-25 (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing | -3.8 | -3.9 | -4.4 |
| Mining | 0.1 | -0.4 | -0.1 |
| Manufacturing | -1.9 | -1.5 | -1.5 |
| Electricity, gas, water and waste services | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.8 |
| Construction | -0.4 | -0.2 | -0.2 |
| Wholesale trade | -0.6 | -1.2 | -0.6 |
| Retail trade | -1.0 | -0.4 | -0.4 |
| Accommodation and food services | -3.7 | -3.8 | -4.0 |
| Transport, postal and warehousing | 0.3 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| Information media and telecommunications | -1.5 | -1.0 | -0.6 |
| Financial and insurance services | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.5 |
| Rental, hiring and real estate services | -2.7 | -2.1 | -2.2 |
| Professional, scientific and technical services | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.4 |
| Administrative and support services | -3.3 | -3.4 | -3.6 |
| Public administration and safety | 4.5 | 4.7 | 4.2 |
| Education and training | 1.2 | 1.3 | 2.0 |
| Health care and social assistance | 5.3 | 5.1 | 4.4 |
| Arts and recreation services | 0.7 | 1.5 | 0.2 |
| Other services | -0.3 | -0.1 | 0.1 |
| All industries | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.2 |

a. Some industries experience pronounced seasonality in payroll jobs, which can affect the interpretation of change between months and industries. For more information, refer to Seasonality in the Factors affecting interpretation (/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-15-march-2025#factors-affecting-interpretation) section of the Methodology.

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c. For reference dates refer to Change periods in the Key statistics (/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-15-march-2025#key-statistics) section.

d. The annual changes should be used with caution given they cross the 'transition point' of the update to employer characteristics. For more information, see the Update of employer characteristics (/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-15-march-2025#update-of-employer-characteristics) section of the Methodology.

### Industry subdivision

Time series estimates of payroll jobs by industry subdivision are presented as index values in Table 2 of the Data downloads. Refer to the Glossary (/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-15-march-2025#glossary) in the Methodology for more detailed information on the industry classification.

### Industry employment guide

Refer to the ABS Industry employment guide (/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/industry-employment-guide#industry) for more detailed information on the range of ABS labour measures, their purpose and how to use them.

## Employment size

In the month to 15 March 2025, payroll jobs increased in 2 of the 3 employment size groups.

- Employers with 200 employees and over had the largest increase (1.2%).
- Employers with 20-199 employees had no increase (0.0%).

## Month change

### Month change in payroll jobs, by employment size (a)(b)(c)(d)

| | Jan-25 (%) | Feb-25 (%) | Mar-25 (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0-19 employees | -1.4 | 3.1 | 0.1 |
| 20-199 employees | 2.3 | 2.3 | 0.0 |
| 200 employees and over | -1.2 | 2.1 | 1.2 |
| All businesses | -2.5 | 2.5 | 0.7 |

a. Records with 'unknown' employment size are only included in the calculation of All businesses indexes. For more information, refer to Revisions in the Factors affecting interpretation (/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-15-march-2025#factors-affecting-interpretation) section of the Methodology.

b. Recent periods in payroll jobs by employment size indexes can be subject to higher than usual revisions over a longer period - particularly for small employers. These indexes are more heavily influenced by changes in reporting behaviour than other indexes, affecting the interpretation of underlying change in labour market conditions.

c. For reference dates refer to Change periods in the Key statistics (/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-15-march-2025#key-statistics) section.

d. The January monthly change should be used with caution given it crosses the 'transition point' of the update to employer characteristics. For more information, see the Update of employer characteristics (/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-15-march-2025#update-of-employer-characteristics) section of the Methodology.

## Annual change

### Annual change in payroll jobs, by employment size (a)(b)(c)(d)

| | Jan-25 (%) | Feb-25 (%) | Mar-25 (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0-19 employees | -3.0 | -2.7 | -3.3 |
| 20-199 employees | 0.3 | 0.2 | -0.3 |
| 200 employees and over | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.3 |
| All businesses | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.2 |

a. Records with 'unknown' employment size are only included in the calculation of All businesses indexes. For more information, refer to Revisions in the Factors affecting interpretation (/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-15-march-2025#factors-affecting-interpretation) section of the Methodology.

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c. For reference dates refer to Change periods in the Key statistics (/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-15-march-2025#key-statistics) section.

d. The annual changes should be used with caution given they cross the 'transition point' of the update to employer characteristics. For more information, see the Update of employer characteristics (/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-15-march-2025#update-of-employer-characteristics) section of the Methodology.

## Data downloads

> Caution should be used when reviewing the series where it crosses Business Register 'transition points'. For more information, see the Update of employer characteristics (/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-15-march-2025#update-of-employer-characteristics) section of the Methodology.

### Table 1. Payroll jobs, indexes

State/territory, industry division and age groups.

**Download** XLSX
[6.77 MB]

### Table 2. Payroll jobs by industry subdivision, indexes

Industry division and subdivision.

Download XLSX
[170.96 KB]

### Table 3. Payroll jobs by employment size, indexes

State/territory and employment size groups.

Download XLSX
[211.59 KB]

### Distribution of characteristics

Selected distributions of jobholder and employer characteristics are included to aid interpretability of payroll job estimates.

Records with 'unknown' characteristics are excluded from the calculation of proportions. Refer to the Updating characteristic variables and Inclusion of unknown characteristics in the How data is transformed (/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-15-march-2025#how-data-is-transformed) section of the Methodology for more information on the source, impact and proportion of unknowns.

### Table 4. Payroll jobs distributions of characteristics, proportions

Previously named 'Table 20: Payroll jobs - characteristics distributions'.

Download XLSX
[516.96 KB]

### All data cubes

Download ZIP
[2.09 MB]

## Previous articles

Previously published articles and information of interest are linked below:

- Labour statistics recent and upcoming developments (/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/labour-statistics-recent-and-upcoming-developments) (updated regularly)
- Characteristics spotlight: 2022 (/articles/characteristics-spotlight-2022) (August 2022)
- Characteristics spotlight: 2021 (/articles/distribution-jobholder-and-employer-characteristics) (May 2021)
- Seasonality spotlight: 2022 to 2023 year end (/articles/spotlight-seasonality-payroll-jobs-and-wages-paid-2022-year-end) (April 2023)
- Seasonality spotlight: 2021 to 2022 year end (https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/seasonality-spotlight-2021-year-end) (February 2022)
- Seasonality spotlight: 2020 to 2021 year end (/articles/year-end-data-variability) (February 2021)
- A year of COVID-19 through payroll jobs and wages statistics (/articles/year-covid-19-through-payroll-jobs-and-wages-statistics) (March 2021)
- Regional spotlight: New South Wales and Queensland (/articles/regional-spotlight-new-south-wales-and-queensland) (April 2022)

### Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6160.0.55.001.

## Methodology

## Scope

Payroll jobs of all businesses reporting through Single Touch Payroll (STP), regardless of the age or Australian residency status of the jobholder.

## Geography

Geography relates to the jobholder's residential address and is available for:

- Australia total
- States and territories

## Source

Australian Taxation Office (ATO) Single Touch Payroll (STP) administrative data combined with ATO Client Register and ABS Business Register data.

## Collection method

The ABS receives selected employer and employee level data from the ATO STP system, which are combined with employer and jobholder characteristics from the ABS Business Register and ATO Client Register.

## Concepts, sources and methods

A payroll job is a relationship between an employee and their employer where the employee is paid through STP-enabled payroll or accounting software.

## History of changes

Refer to the History of changes section.

View full methodology →